

## RISING FROM THE ASHES (ANDREW AND LAUREN)

### Chapter 1859

"So tell me, what exactly was your relationship with Hunter?" Andrew asked.

Eric replied flatly, "We grew up together. We trained together. We were inseparable and willing to die for each other. So tell me... What kind of relationship do you think that is?"

Andrew widened his eyes in mock horror. "Whoa, you and Hunter were that close? Was he a guy or a girl?"

Eric's mouth twitched. "He was a guy. So what?"

Andrew clicked his tongue. "A guy, huh? Then that makes things a little risky. Don't tell me you were already in love with him when you were just kids. Eric, you're a guy, too. You know relationships like that are not exactly encouraged, right?"

Eric's rage exploded. He suddenly flipped the dagger in his hand and pressed the blade to Andrew's throat.

Andrew smiled cheerfully as if he did not have a care in the world. He just stared back at Eric with complete fearlessness.

Eric gritted his teeth. "Keep pushing me, Andrew. Next time, I might not hold back."

Andrew chuckled. "So, I hit the nail on the head! You and Hunter grew up together. It should've been solid brotherly bonds, but one of you secretly developed romantic feelings. To quote the famous writer: 'I took you for a brother, but you wanted to bend me over,' right?"

Eric's face twitched, but he said nothing.

Alex and the other martial king exchanged strange looks but wisely kept their mouths shut.

Everyone who knew Eric was aware that he was an odd one. His martial talent was insane, but he was distant and withdrawn, never social, never talkative. He always followed Jerome like a loyal shadow, quiet and obedient.

Over time, the rumors began, and people wondered about Eric's orientation. His fighting technique leaned toward the dark and feminine, and there was always a strange aura around him.

In fact, within Goldridge's more "colorful circles", some of the more flamboyant folk had already labeled Eric as a dreamboat, a top-tier "catch" material.

At first, Andrew did not suspect a thing. However, when Eric said betrayed Jerome because of Hunter,

Jerome's biological son, who  
grew

up alongside Eric, it all clicked.

Sure, two boys growing up together would form a tight bond. They could be just like brothers for life and

would take a bullet for each other

Yet, there was nothing brotherly  
about the way Eric looked when he  
talked about Hunter.

It was the look of someone who had lost a lover and now wanted to burn the world for revenge.

Jerome really drew the short straw. He raised both boys as equals, and somehow, those two ended up catching feelings. Now, one of them wanted him dead.

Even Andrew could not help but feel bad for Jerome.

The SUV slowed down as it approached an intersection, where two law enforcement officers were checking cars.

Suddenly, Andrew leaned his head out the window and shouted, "Officers! They're

human traffickers! I've been abducted! Help me!"

The two officers jumped and immediately ran over.

Eric did not hesitate. "Lock the windows and punch through the checkpoint!"

The bearded driver slammed his foot on the gas. Just as the SUV burst forward, Alex felt a sharp pain slam through his skull, stars exploding in his vision.

Before he could react, Andrew had already rammed into him, shattered the window; and launched himself out of the vehicle. He hit the

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pavement, rolled hard, and despite his hands still being tied, took off at full sprint. Within seconds, he vanished into the crowd.

The officers pounded on the side of the SUV, shouting for them to stop.noveldrama

Eric yanked the wheel and growled, "Keep driving! Ignore them!"

Alex screamed in frustration. "Mr. Humphrey, that bastard got away! He got away!"

However, Eric's face was stone cold. "Let him. If he can actually escape Goldridge... then maybe he deserves it."